



FIGURE 1. 8 mm camera and intervalometer for recording radar data.

is placed in the field of view of the camera to identify the time at which each frame of film was taken. A small amount of data is potentially lost when the shutter is closed and the film is being advanced. In most cases this does not pose a problem because the long persistence phosphors of most radar displays retain the image of the sweep until the shutter is reopened for the next exposure.

We have used the same intervalometer successfully for time-lapse motion picture work with normal (unmodified) 8 mm and 16 mm cameras.

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**Tactile bristles of Saw-whet Owls are sensitive to touch.**—The Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) is a very popularly captured bird in the late fall and winter months at some of our mid-Atlantic and northeastern banding stations. Many banders and visitors to their stations tend to stroke this species as one would a pet.

I've found in dealing particularly with young Saw-whets (Schaeffer, F. S. *EBBA NEWS*, 31: 174-177, 1968.) that their tactile bristles, i.e. the feathering at the base of their bills, is extremely sensitive to touch. Touching the tactile bristles most often elicits snapping; if one persists in stroking the bird there, the snapping turns to striking. Another example of this phenomenon is found in the European Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) for which trappers found that the young of this species also have sensitive tactile bristles (Bub, H. *Vogelfang und Vogelberingung* (Part I). A. Ziemsen Verlag, Wittenberg Lutherstadt, GDR, p. 28, 1971.)

Birds being held for banding or other research should not be petted at all but handled as little as possible and banders should be forewarned that in these small owls, stroking of the area at the base of the bill and other parts of the face can result in serious injury to the bander.—FREDERICK S. SCHAEFFER, 84-55 *Daniels Street (Apt. 1k) Jamaica, New York 11435*. Received 10 January 1973, accepted 27 February 1973.